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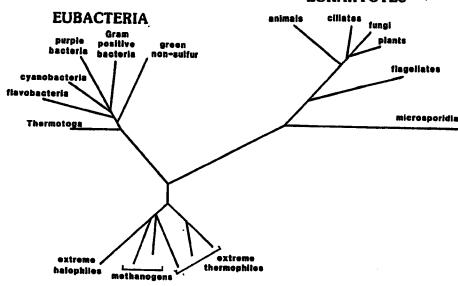
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(57) Abstract

Nucleic acid probes capable of hybridizing to rRNA of eubacteria and not to rRNA of non-eubacteria are described along with methods utilizing such probes for the detection of eubacteria in clinical and other samples. Preferred embodiments include probes capable of distinguishing between gram-positive and gram-negative bacteria.